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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1992
Agenda item 11
REGIONAL COOPERATION

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation, signed at Istanbul by the heads of State or Government of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine on 25 June 1992 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would kindly have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 79 and 85 of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992, under agenda item 11.

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation

The heads of State or Government of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine,

1. Taking into account the profound and rapid changes in Europe and the determination of the peoples of the continent to shape a new era of peace and security on the basis of the principles laid down in the Helsinki Final Act and the follow-up documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and particularly in the Charter of Paris for a new Europe;

2. Recognizing that a prosperous and united Europe will evolve on shared values, such as democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, prosperity through economic liberty and social justice, and equal security for all our countries;

3. Taking into consideration the potential of the participating States and the opportunities for enhancing the mutually advantageous economic cooperation arising from their geographic proximity and from the reform process and structural adjustments;

4. Conscious of the importance of the environmental problems of the Black Sea for the well-being of their peoples and recognizing that it is vital to ensure the environmental sustainability of their economic development;

5. Confirm the intention to develop economic cooperation as a contribution to the CSCE process, to the establishment of a Europe-wide economic area, as well as to the achievement of a higher degree of integration of the participating States into the world economy;

6. Share the common objectives to achieve the further development and diversification of both bilateral and multilateral cooperation among them as well as with other interested countries, to foster their economic, technological and social progress and to encourage free enterprise;

7. Agree that their economic cooperation will be developed in a manner not contravening their obligations and not preventing the promotion of the relations of the participating States with third parties, including international organizations, as well as the European Communities and the cooperation within the regional initiatives;

8. Aim to ensure that the Black Sea becomes a sea of peace, stability and prosperity, thriving to promote friendly and good-neighbourly relations;

9. Declare that the economic cooperation among the participating States will be developed on the basis of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the decisions in the subsequent CSCE documents, as well as of the other universally recognized principles of international law;

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10. Agree that the economic cooperation will be promoted gradually and, while determining the priorities in this process, they will take into account the specific economic conditions, interests and concerns of the countries involved, and particularly the problems of the countries in transition to a market economy;

11. Affirm that the whole economic cooperation among their countries is open for the participation of other interested States, recognizing the provisions of this document. As regards projects of common interest, individual countries, their economic and financial institutions, enterprises and firms, as well as regional and international economic and financial institutions, could be involved in their realization;

12. Decide to develop comprehensive multilateral and bilateral Black Sea economic cooperation, covering the various fields of activity as specified below;

13. Affirming their determination to make best use of all possibilities and opportunities for expanding and multiplying their cooperation in the fields of economics, including trade and industrial cooperation, of science and technology and of the environment, the participating States declare that they will take from now on concrete steps in this process by identifying, developing and carrying out, with the participation of their competent organizations, enterprises and firms, projects of common interest, inter alia, in the following areas:

(a) Transport and communications, including their infrastructure;

(b) Informatics;

(c) Exchange of economic and commercial information, including statistics;

(d) Standardization and certification of products;

(e) Energy;

(f) Mining and processing of mineral raw materials;

(g) Tourism;

(h) Agriculture and agro-industries;

(i) Veterinary and sanitary protection;

(j) Health care and pharmaceutics;

(k) Science and technology;

14. In order to promote their cooperation, the participating States will act to improve the business environment and to stimulate individual and collective initiative of the enterprises and firms directly involved, mainly by:

(a) Facilitating, via bilateral negotiations, the prompt entry, stay and free movement of businessmen in their respective territories and encouraging direct contacts among enterprises and firms;

(b) Providing support for small- and medium-sized enterprises;

(c) Contributing to the expansion of their mutual trade in goods and services and ensuring conditions favourable to such development by continuing their efforts to reduce further or progressively eliminate obstacles of all kinds, in a manner not contravening their obligations towards third parties;

(d) Ensuring appropriate conditions for investment, capital flows and different forms of industrial cooperation, notably by concluding and putting into effect, in the near future, agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and on the promotion and protection of investments;

(e) Encouraging the exchange of information on international tenders organized in the participating States so as to give the opportunity to their enterprises and firms to participate therein, in accordance with the national rules and practices;

(f) Encouraging cooperation in free economic zones;

15. The participating States will take appropriate steps, including by promoting joint projects, for the protection of the environment, particularly the preservation and the improvement of the environment of the Black Sea, and the conservation, exploitation and development of its bio-productive potential;

16. The participating States will consider or encourage the conclusion of appropriate credit and financial arrangements at the governmental and non-governmental level and will seek to mobilize funds, including through international institutions and third parties, for the purpose of expanding their mutual economic and commercial cooperation and implementing specific projects of common interest in the Black Sea area. In this context, they will consider the possibilities and the ways of establishing a "Black Sea Foreign Trade and Investment Bank".

17. Meetings of the Foreign Ministers of the participating States will be convened regularly on a rotation basis, at least once a year, to review progress and to define new targets. By common understanding, ad hoc and permanent working groups of experts are to be set up to propose the necessary arrangements concerning the cooperation in different fields. The participating States consider that, at this stage of their cooperation, it is necessary to ensure institutional flexibility. Representatives of the business community should be invited to this process so as to benefit from their practical experience;

18. Those States which commit themselves to the observance of the provisions of the present document can join, with the approval of the participating States, the whole process of cooperation; organizations, enterprises and firms of third parties will also be given the possibility of indicating their interest in projects of common interest and, in case of agreement, of taking part in their implementation. Regional and international economic and financial institutions may also contribute in the carrying out of these projects.

Sali BERISHA
President of the Republic of Albania

Levon TER-PETROSYAN
President of the Republic of Armenia

Ebulfaz ELCHIBAY
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Jelyu JELEV
President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Eduard SHEVARDNADZE
President of the State Council of Georgia

Constantin MITSOTAKIS
Prime Minister of the Republic of Greece

Mircea SNEGUR
President of the Republic of Moldova

Ion ILIESCU
President of the Republic of Romania

Boris YELTSIN
President of the Russian Federation

Süleyman DEMIREL
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Leonid KRAVCHUK
President of Ukraine